

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Neil DuChez on 04/08/10.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A mortar and debris collection device comprising first and second substantially rigid mat elements connected by a flexible hinge formation that permits the mat elements to be folded into closely overlying relationship for insertion in a hinge-formation-down orientation into lower portions of a cavity between an outer wall structure and an inner wall structure of a masonry cavity wall where the device unfolds to form an upwardly opening generally V-shaped trough for catching mortar droppings and construction debris at locations spaced from where weep vent passages formed through the outer wall structure open into lowermost portions of the cavity, and wherein the mat elements are pervious to moisture and permit moisture to pass downwardly through lower cavity portions toward where the weep vent passages open into the cavity for discharge from the cavity through the weep vent passages;

wherein at least one of the mat elements is defined by an open-space defining array of polymer filaments that twist and turn between filament intersections where adjacent ones of the filaments are bonded to each other, the polymer filaments comprising

polyolefin filaments or polyamide filaments;

wherein the first mat element has a thickness which comes to a pointed upper edge region configured to engage a selected one of the inner and outer wall structures when the device unfolds, the pointed upper edge region of the first mat element being tapered to form an acute angle within the range of about 45 degrees to about 30 degrees; and/or the second mat element has a thickness which comes to a pointed upper edge region configured to engage the other of the inner and outer wall structures when the device unfolds, the pointed upper edge region of the second mat element being tapered to form an acute angle within the range of about 45 degrees to about 30 degrees.

16. (Currently amended) A mortar and debris collection device insertable into lower portions of a cavity defined between outer and inner wall structures of a masonry cavity wall to form an upwardly opening trough of generally V-shaped cross-section for catching mortar droppings and sizable construction debris at locations spaced from where weep vent passages formed through the outer wall structure open into lowermost portions of the cavity, comprising first and second relatively rigid mat elements coupled by a hinge connection that permits the relatively rigid mat elements to be pivoted about the hinge connection to a folded position wherein the mat elements closely overlie each other so as to be easily inserted into the lower portions of the cavity where portions of the first and second mat elements at positions spaced from the hinge connection engage opposed cavity-facing surface portions of the outer and inner wall structures to define an upwardly opening collection trough of substantially V-shaped cross-section

that substantially bridges between the outer and inner wall structures for receiving and holding mortar droppings and construction debris at a central location spaced from the outer and inner wall structures and from where said weep vent passages open into said lowermost portions of the cavity, and wherein the mat elements permit moisture to pass therethrough as moisture migrates downwardly through the cavity and into the weep vent passage openings for discharge from the cavity through the weep vent passages; wherein at least one of the mat elements is defined by an open-space defining array of polymer filaments that twist and turn between filament intersections where adjacent ones of the filaments are bonded to each other, the polymer filaments comprising polyolefin filaments or polyamide filaments;

wherein the first mat element has a thickness which comes to a pointed upper edge region configured to engage a selected one of the inner and outer wall structures when the device unfolds, the pointed upper edge region of the first mat element being tapered to form an acute angle within the range of about 45 degrees to about 30 degrees;

and/or the second mat element has a thickness which comes to a pointed upper edge region configured to engage the other of the inner and outer wall structures when the device unfolds, the pointed upper edge region of the second mat element being tapered to form an acute angle within the range of about 45 degrees to about 30 degrees.

42. (Currently amended) A mortar and debris collection device having polymer filaments

that define substantially rigid, substantially flat, first and second mat elements, and having a flexible hinge formation extending between and connecting the first and second mat elements for movement relative to each other about the flexible hinge formation to a folded position wherein the first and second mat elements closely overlie each other so as to permit the device, with the first and second mat elements in the folded position, to be inserted into lower portions of a cavity between outer and inner wall structures of a masonry cavity wall in a hinge-formation-down orientation, with the first and second mat structures of the inserted device cooperating to define an upwardly opening trough of substantially V-shaped cross section that bridges between opposed cavity-facing surface portions of the outer and inner wall structures to catch mortar droppings and sizable construction debris at locations spaced from where weep vent passages formed through the outer wall structure open into lowermost portions of the cavity, and with the first and second mat elements each having at least a portion thereof defined by polymer filaments that twist and turn between junctures where adjacent filaments are connected so as to define open-space structures through which moisture can pass on its way toward the weep vent passage openings; the polymer filaments comprising polyolefin filaments or polyamide filaments;

wherein the first mat element has a thickness which comes to a pointed upper edge region configured to engage a selected one of the inner and outer wall structures when the device unfolds, the pointed upper edge region of the first mat element being tapered to form an acute angle within the range of about 45 degrees to about 30 degrees;

and/or the second mat element has a thickness which comes to a pointed upper edge

region configured to engage the other of the inner and outer wall structures when the device unfolds, the pointed upper edge region of the second mat element being tapered to form an acute angle within the range of about 45 degrees to about 30 degrees.

43. (Currently amended) A mortar and debris collection device comprising first anti second substantially rigid mat elements connected by a flexible hinge formation that permits the mat elements to be folded into closely overlying relationship for insertion in a hinge-formation-down orientation into lower portions of a cavity between an outer wall structure and an inner wall structure of a masonry cavity wall where the device unfolds to form an upwardly opening generally V-shaped trough for catching mortar droppings and construction debris at locations spaced from where weep vent passages formed through the outer wall structure open into lowermost portions of the cavity, and wherein the mat elements are pervious to moisture and permit moisture to pass downwardly through lower cavity portions toward where the weep vent passages open into the cavity for discharge from the cavity through the weep vent passages;

wherein the first mat element has a first width, wherein the second mat element has a second width, and the first and second widths are unequal;

wherein the first mat element has a thickness which comes to a pointed upper edge region configured to engage a selected one of the inner and outer wall structures when the device unfolds, the pointed upper edge region of the first mat element being tapered to form an acute angle within the range of about 45 degrees to about 30 degrees;

and/or the second mat element has a thickness which comes to a pointed upper edge

region configured to engage the other of the inner and outer wall structures when the device unfolds, the pointed upper edge region of the second mat element being tapered to form an acute angle within the range of about 45 degrees to about 30 degrees.

44. (Currently amended) A mortar and debris collection device comprising first and second substantially rigid mat elements connected by a flexible hinge formation that permits the mat elements to be folded into closely overlying relationship for insertion in a hinge-formation-down orientation into lower portions of a cavity between an outer wall structure and an inner wall structure of a masonry cavity wall where the device unfolds to form an upwardly opening generally V-shaped trough for catching mortar droppings and construction debris at locations spaced from where weep vent passages formed through the outer wall structure open into lowermost portions of the cavity, and wherein the mat elements are pervious to moisture and permit moisture to pass downwardly through lower cavity portions toward where the weep vent passages open into the cavity for discharge from the cavity through the weep vent passages; wherein a selected one of the first and second mat elements has a width sufficient to shield a reach of flashing material that lines a lower portion of the inner wall structure, and the selected one of the first and second mat elements is positioned in the cavity so as to shield said reach of flashing material; wherein the first mat element has a thickness which comes to a pointed upper edge region configured to engage a selected one of the inner and outer wall structures when the device unfolds, the pointed upper edge region of the first mat element being tapered

to form an acute angle within the range of about 45 degrees to about 30 degrees;
and/or the second mat element has a thickness which comes to a pointed upper edge region configured to engage the other of the inner and outer wall structures when the device unfolds, the pointed upper edge region of the second mat element being tapered to form an acute angle within the range of about 45 degrees to about 30 degrees.

45. (Currently amended) A mortar and debris collection device comprising first and second substantially rigid mat elements connected by a flexible hinge formation that permits the mat elements to be folded into closely overlying relationship for insertion in a hinge-formation-down orientation into lower portions of a cavity between an outer wall structure and an inner wall structure of a masonry cavity wall where the device unfolds to form an upwardly opening generally V-shaped trough for catching mortar droppings and construction debris at locations spaced from where weep vent passages formed through the outer wall structure open into lowermost portions of the cavity, and wherein the mat elements are pervious to moisture and permit moisture to pass downwardly through lower cavity portions toward where the weep vent passages open into the cavity for discharge from the cavity through the weep vent passages;
wherein one of the first and second mat elements has a thickness which comes to a pointed upper edge region configured to engage a selected one of the inner and outer wall structures when the device unfolds;
wherein the pointed upper edge region is tapered to form an acute angle within the

range of about 45 degrees to about 30 degrees.

46. (Currently amended) A mortar and debris collection device comprising first and second substantially rigid mat elements connected by a flexible hinge formation that permits the mat elements to be folded into closely overlying relationship for insertion in a hinge-formation-down orientation into lower portions of a cavity between an outer wall structure and an inner wall structure of a masonry cavity wall where the device unfolds to form an upwardly opening generally V-shaped trough for catching mortar droppings and construction debris at locations spaced from where weep vent passages formed through the outer wall structure open into lowermost portions of the cavity, and wherein the mat elements are pervious to moisture and permit moisture to pass downwardly through lower cavity portions toward where the weep vent passages open into the cavity for discharge from the cavity through the weep vent passages;

wherein the first mat element has a thickness which comes to a first pointed upper edge region configured to engage a selected one of the inner and outer wall structures when the device unfolds, and the second mat element has a thickness which comes to a second pointed upper edge region configured to engage the other of the inner and outer wall structures when the device unfolds; and

wherein each of the first and second pointed upper edge regions is tapered to form an acute angle within the range of about 45 degrees to about 30 degrees.

47. (Currently amended) A mortar and debris collection device insertable into lower portions of a cavity defined between outer and inner wall structures of a masonry cavity wall to form an upwardly opening trough of generally V-shaped cross-section for catching mortar droppings and sizable construction debris at locations spaced from where weep vent passages formed through the outer wall structure open into lowermost portions of the cavity, comprising first and second relatively rigid mat elements coupled by a hinge connection that permits the relatively rigid mat elements to be pivoted about the hinge connection to a folded position wherein the mat elements closely overlie each other so as to be easily inserted into the lower portions of the cavity where portions of the first and second mat elements at positions spaced from the hinge connection engage opposed cavity-facing surface portions of the outer and inner wall structures to define an upwardly opening collection trough of substantially V-shaped cross section that substantially bridges between the outer and inner wall structures for receiving and holding mortar droppings and construction debris at a central location spaced from the outer and inner wall structures and from where said weep vent passages open into said lowermost portions of the cavity, and wherein the mat elements permit moisture to pass therethrough as moisture migrates downwardly through the cavity and into the weep vent passage openings for discharge from the cavity through the weep vent passages; wherein: a) the first mat element has a first length and a first width measured transversely with respect to the first length, and has a first edge region of the first mat element that extends along the first length;

b) the second mat element has a second length and a second width measured transversely with respect to the second length, and has a second edge region of the second mat element that extends along the second length; and,
c) the hinge connection extends along the first and second lengths to hingedly connect at least selected portions of the first edge region to at least selected portions of the second edge region; and

wherein the first and second widths are unequal; wherein the first mat element has a thickness which comes to a pointed upper edge region configured to engage a selected one of the inner and outer wall structures when the device unfolds, the pointed upper edge region of the first mat element being tapered to form an acute angle within the range of about 45 degrees to about 30 degrees; and/or the second mat element has a thickness which comes to a pointed upper edge region configured to engage the other of the inner and outer wall structures when the device unfolds, the pointed upper edge region of the second mat element being tapered to form an acute angle within the range of about 45 degrees to about 30 degrees.

48. (Currently amended) A mortar and debris collection device insertable into lower portions of a cavity defined between outer and inner wall structures of a masonry cavity wall to form an upwardly opening trough of generally V-shaped cross-section for catching mortar droppings and sizable construction debris at locations spaced from where weep vent passages formed through the outer wall structure open into lowermost portions of the cavity, comprising first and second relatively rigid mat elements coupled

by a hinge connection that permits the relatively rigid mat elements to be pivoted about the hinge connection to a folded position wherein the mat elements closely overlie each other so as to be easily inserted into the lower portions of the cavity where portions of the first and second mat elements at positions spaced from the hinge connection engage opposed cavity-facing surface portions of the outer and inner wall structures to define an upwardly opening collection trough of substantially V-shaped crosssection that substantially bridges between the outer and inner wall structures for receiving and holding mortar droppings and construction debris at a central location spaced from the outer and inner wall structures and from where said weep vent passages open into said lowermost portions of the cavity, and wherein the mat elements permit moisture to pass therethrough as moisture migrates downwardly through the cavity and into the weep vent passage openings for discharge from the cavity through the weep vent passages; wherein a selected one of the first and second mat elements has a width sufficient to shield a reach of flashing material that lines a lower portion of the inner wall structure, and the selected one of the first and second mat elements is positioned in the cavity so as to shield said reach of flashing material;

wherein the first mat element has a thickness which comes to a pointed upper edge region configured to engage a selected one of the inner and outer wall structures when the device unfolds, the pointed upper edge region of the first mat element being tapered to form an acute angle within the range of about 45 degrees to about 30 degrees; and/or the second mat element has a thickness which comes to a pointed upper edge region configured to engage the other of the inner and outer wall structures when the

device unfolds, the pointed upper edge region of the second mat element being tapered to form an acute angle within the range of about 45 degrees to about 30 degrees.

49. (Currently amended) A mortar and debris collection device insertable into lower portions of a cavity defined between outer and inner wall structures of a masonry cavity wall to form an upwardly opening trough of generally V-shaped cross-section for catching mortar droppings and sizable construction debris at locations spaced from where weep vent passages formed through the outer wall structure open into lowermost portions of the cavity, comprising first and second relatively rigid mat elements coupled by a hinge connection that permits the relatively rigid mat elements to be pivoted about the hinge connection to a folded position wherein the mat elements closely overlie each other so as to be easily inserted into the lower portions of the cavity where portions of the first and second mat elements at positions spaced from the hinge connection engage opposed cavity-facing surface portions of the outer and inner wall structures to define an upwardly opening collection trough of substantially V-shaped crosssection that substantially bridges between the outer and inner wall structures for receiving and holding mortar droppings and construction debris at a central location spaced from the outer and inner wall structures and from where said weep vent passages open into said lowermost portions of the cavity, and wherein the mat elements permit moisture to pass therethrough as moisture migrates downwardly through the cavity and into the weep vent passage openings for discharge from the cavity through the weep vent passages; wherein one of the first and second mat elements has a thickness which comes to a

pointed upper edge region configured to engage a selected one of the inner and outer wall structures when the device unfolds;

wherein the pointed upper edge region is tapered to form an acute angle within the range of about 45 degrees to about 30 degrees.

50. (Currently amended) A mortar and debris collection device insertable into lower portions of a cavity defined between outer and inner wall structures of a masonry cavity wall to form an upwardly opening trough of generally V-shaped cross-section for catching mortar droppings and sizable construction debris at locations spaced from where weep vent passages formed through the outer wall structure open into lowermost portions of the cavity, comprising first and second relatively rigid mat elements coupled by a hinge connection that permits the relatively rigid mat elements to be pivoted about the hinge connection to a folded position wherein the mat elements closely overlie each other so as to be easily inserted into the lower portions of the cavity where portions of the first and second mat elements at positions spaced from the hinge connection engage opposed cavity-facing surface portions of the outer and inner wall structures to define an upwardly opening collection trough of substantially V-shaped cross-section that substantially bridges between the outer and inner wall structures for receiving and holding mortar droppings and construction debris at a central location spaced from the outer and inner wall structures and from where said weep vent passages open into said lowermost portions of the cavity, and wherein the mat elements permit moisture to pass therethrough as moisture migrates downwardly through the cavity and into the weep

vent passage openings for discharge from the cavity through the weep vent passages; wherein the first mat element has a thickness which comes to a first pointed upper edge region configured to engage a selected one of the inner and outer wall structures when the device unfolds, and the second mat element has a thickness which comes to a second pointed upper edge region configured to engage the other of the inner and outer wall structures when the device unfolds; wherein each of the first and second pointed upper edge regions is tapered to form an acute angle within the range of about 45 degrees to about 30 degrees.

2. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9-11, 16, 19, 20, 22, 23, 25-27, 32-50 are allowed.
3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ROBERT J. CANFIELD whose telephone number is (571)272-6840. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rich Chilcot can be reached on 571-272-6777. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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